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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of: **SUGIYAMA, Kazuhiko, et al.**

Group Art Unit: **Not Yet Assigned**

Serial No.: **10/506,671**

Examiner: **Not yet Assigned**

Filed: **September 16, 2004**

For: **PIPE JOINT**

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.97(b)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

December 29, 2004

Sir:

The attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. One copy of each of these documents is attached.

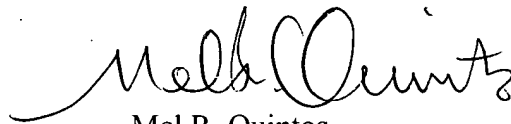
No fee or certification is required in connection with this Information Disclosure Statement, since it is being submitted prior to the issuance of a first official action on the merits or expiration of the three month period following the filing date or the entry of the national stage of the above-captioned application.

The above information is presented so that the Patent and Trademark Office can, in the first instance, determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the documents cited in the attached Form PTO-1449 be made of record therein and appear on the first page of any patent to issue therefrom.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 01-2340 for any fee which is deemed by the Patent and Trademark Office to be required to effect consideration of this statement.

Respectfully submitted,

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Enclosures: PTO-1449; References (10); and International Search Report dated 7/8/03.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION PTO-1449	Atty. Docket No. 040478	Serial No. 10/506,671
	Applicant(s): SUGIYAMA, Kazuhiko, et al.	
	Filing Date: September 16, 2004	Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial	Document No.	Name	Date	Class	Subclass	Filing Date (If appropriate)
	AA					

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		Document No.	Date	Country	Translation (Yes or No)
_____	AB	8-128574	05/21/96	Japan	Abstract
_____	AC	4-102791	04/03/92	Japan	Abstract
_____	AD	1-158887	11/02/89	Japan	No
_____	AE	6-53886	07/22/94	Japan	No
_____	AF	57-112162	07/10/82	Japan	No
_____	AG	4-31801	03/16/92	Japan	No
_____	AH	62-106091	07/07/87	Japan	No
_____	AI	1-98393	06/30/89	Japan	No
_____	AJ	6-241362	08/30/94	Japan	Abstract
_____	AK	8-100875	04/16/96	Japan	Abstract

OTHER DOCUMENTS

_____	AL	International Search Report dated 7/8/03.				
<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Examiner</td> <td>Date Considered</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>			Examiner	Date Considered		
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